September/October 1987

Lasca Leaves

Los Angeles County Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens

"ENGLISH INFLUENCE" CHOSEN AS 1987 GARDEN SHOW THEME

The Los Angeles Garden Show for gardening enthusiasts will run Oct. 16 through 25 at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum. This year's theme, "The English Influence," features displays of perennials in settings much like those found in Britain. Plant fans can garner information and inspiration at the Los Angeles Garden Show, the most spectacular garden event on the West Coast.

Display gardens illustrate exemplary design and landscape uses of plants. Displays introduce visitors to available garden materials and services. Educational exhibits by horticultural organizations and commercial growers and suppliers offer displays detailing their activities.

The trade mart offers the best of retail garden supplies and accessories. Visitors can purchase plants such as cycads, African violets, orchids, exotics, cactus and succulents and roses. Gardening tools, books, fountains, calendars, stationery, decorated baskets, fertilizers and self-watering pots are also among the offerings of the 40 some vendors.

Awards are presented to exhibitors for excellence in landscape display and design in many categor-

Paul Comstock

Trees and topiary form a grand colonnade leading to the Los Angeles Garden Show in this design by Paul Comstock, a winning designer from past shows whose plan won in the competition to develop the theme display for 1987.

ies.

Everyone is invited to participate in this floral and garden event of the year. More than three acres will be filled with outdoor gardens where designers interpret the latest gardening trends, and 10,000 square feet of indoor displays will be shown in Ayres Hall of Environmental Education.

The Garden Show Preview Party will be held Oct. 15, the evening before the opening of the show.

William Aplin

Garden Show planners will expand several popular features from past years. The competitive exhibit of container plants (above) that runs Oct. 21-25 this year will feature an English theme. Visitors shopping for plants and gardening equipment always keep vendors busy in the Trade Mart (below). In 1987, hungry Garden Show visitors can choose between two restaurants, one offering light refreshments and the other more substantial meals.

Floral arrangements beautify the show.

JOHN COPELAND NAMED TO ROBINSON GARDENS STAFF

John Copeland

John Copeland has been appointed Supervisor of the Virginia Robinson Gardens. He comes to the gardens from California State University, Fullerton, where he was Supervisor of Grounds and Landscape Services — Arboretum for the past eight years. Mr. Copeland has earned a bachelors degree in ornamental horticulture and done graduate study in Landscape Architecture at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, Blacksburg.

TOURS, REVIEW HIGHLIGHT ANNUAL FOUNDATION MEETING

At the annual meeting of the California Arboretum Foundation held on June 3 in Ayres Hall of Environmental Education, members reflected upon past achievements. Starting at 2 p.m., tram and walking tours of the grounds were given to members in addition to tours of the Library, Administration Building, Research Building, Foundation office and Santa Anita Depot.

Refreshments were served, and the business meeting began at 4 p.m. with president Alice Thomas officiating. She announced the addition of two new members to the Board of Trustees: Arthur L. Crowe, retired executive vice-president of Carter Hawley Hale Stores Inc., and Philip L. Silcox, manager of employee relations at Atlantic Richfield Corporation.

Richard Ray, chairman of the development committee, reported that the committee was responsible for the recent development of the Master Plan for the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum and is now studying implementation of plan recommendations.

He reviewed the achievements of the development program, citing the completion of Ayres Hall after a fund raising campaign. Another accomplishment was the grant for capital improvement of the grounds received from Los Angeles County that matched donations from members and the private sector.

Funds were received for the Water Conservation Garden, the horticultural intern program and the Arbor Day program for public schools. Other funds have been raised to begin work on the early phases of the Master Plan.

Mr. Ray added that a development office will be established to sustain the fund-raising momentum. Mr. Ray thanked members for their support and encouraged them to inform the community of future plans for the Arboretum.

Patty (Mrs. William) Rider, president of Las Voluntarias y Los Ayudantes, reminded everyone that the organization was 20 years old in 1987, a milestone celebrated at a festive birthday party given by Director Francis Ching on May 8.

Mrs. Rider described some Las Vols activities this year including Baldwin Bonanza XVII, the Queen Anne Cottage open house and the

LuAnn Munns

Giant water lilies (Victoria species) *were planted in several locations on the Arboretum grounds for the first time last summer. Nursery worker Don Fitch tends one of the plants in the Research Building atrium pool. Leaves up to 8 feet in diameter covered the water by summer's end.*

school field program in which docents guided 6,700 children and 2,500 adults through the grounds. She lauded the volunteers in the speakers bureau who gave 30 presentations to community groups. Special recognition also went to volunteer Perry Minton for repairing farm tools on display in the Coach Barn and volunteers who work in the Rotunda selling memberships to the Foundation. Volunteers worked a total of 36,000 hours this year.

Director Francis Ching discussed accomplishments in the past year and thanked members for their support. Mr. Ching said that the air pollution display greenhouses sponsored by the State Air Resources Board have been completed. Everthing is now in place to show the effects of air pollution on plants and consequently, the economic future of California. He also noted that because of the success of the orchid plant sale in February, more specialty plant sales, featuring plants not readily available in commercial nurseries, are planned for next year.

Mr. Ching also reported that with assistance from the Arboretum, 250 flowering trees have recently been planted in various areas of Southern California. One hundred trees were donated to Pasadena Beautiful Foundation and another 150 trees were donated to the California Department of Transportation which planted them along the Foothill Freeway. The trees, introduced to Southern California by the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, included erythrinas, pink trumpet trees and both pink and white flowered silk floss trees.

In order to avert any further losses in staff and operations and maintenance funds, admission fees were increased on April 1. Since then, according to Mr. Ching, there has been an almost unnoticeable drop in attendance while revenue has increased.

Mr. Ching also told members about the Los Angeles Garden Show, "the finest flower show on the West Coast," scheduled for Oct. 16 through 25 at the Arboretum.

Mrs. Thomas announced that a new membership category, Patron of the Gardens, will be available next year. The benefits are unlimited admission to South Coast Botanic Gardens, Descanso Gardens, the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum and one visit per year to Virginia Robinson Gardens plus a 10 percent discount in the various gift shops of the gardens.

DESCANSO'S GRACE MATTHEWS WINS 1987 VOLUNTEER AWARD

Grace Matthews, membership chairman of the Descanso Gardens Guild, was named the 1987 Volunteer of the Year for the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens. At the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion Ms. Matthews was awarded a certificate by actor Henry Winkler, master of ceremonies, and Deane Dana, Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors.

Of 80,000 volunteers in 40 departments, Ms. Matthews was honored for her talents and energies as a volunteer of Los Angeles County.

In the eight and one-half years that Ms. Matthews has been membership chairman at Descanso Gardens, membership has grown from 900 to over 2,700. Ms. Matthews said that one method she used to recruit new members was to set up membership tables at weekend plant shows.

Grace Matthews from Descanso Gardens is congratulated by actor Henry Winkler (left) and County Supervisor Deane Dana after being named Volunteer of the Year for the Los Angeles County Department of Arboretum and Botanic Gardens.

Because of her dedication to the garden and charitable service, she has enriched the lives of those working with her and visitors who come to the garden.

Ms. Matthews is also a member of the Glendale Foothill Artist Guild and recently won second place as a watercolor artist.

(LASCA continues after page 32)

County Gardens Benefit

Interns Tackle Varied Tasks

by Jill Lachut

The summer internship program at the grounds of the Department of Arboreta and Botanic Gardens has done great things for the gardens and the students. The internship program at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum, Descanso Gardens and South Coast Botanic Garden provides students with an opportunity to gain practical experience in the horticultural field. Students gain valuable practical knowledge to complement their academic instruction.

One intern is learning all about plants for the first time. Alex Main, a journalism student at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo said, "We break a sweat everyday."

In the Arboretum Herb Garden Mark Countryman from Washington State University and Barbara Lagerquist from the University of Western Ontario planted a number of herbs including thyme and mist flowers.

"We really get in the dirt," Mark commented about the hands-on experience students receive in the intern program. "I'm used to working in research labs. But working on the grounds is how to get a start in horticulture.'"

One of the first projects the interns undertook — for some it was on their first day — was to remove

Student interns at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum take a break near the Meyberg Waterfall. Back row from left are Fabian Synaeghel, Dale Whitt and Alex Main. Front row are Leslie Pray, Barbara Lagerquist, Mark Countryman, Kendra Ecton, Dana Madsen and Lori White.

Mark Countryman (left) and Barbara Lagerquist plant thyme in the Arboretum Herb Garden.

ARBORETUM ATTRACTS INTERNS FROM ABROAD

THIS SUMMER three international interns, two from Canada and one from Germany participated in the internship program at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

Barbara Lagerquist from British Columbia, Canada, is a student at the University of Western Ontario. She is in her fourth year of school and is studying ecology. Barbara learned about the program through an international training assistance program. Although she hoped to work with animals this summer, she found her stint at the Arboretum very educational.

She had hoped to go to Europe through the exchange program that sent her friends to Finland and Amsterdam, Netherlands, but she said, she was happy to come to California.

Petra Schmaehling from Cologne, Germany, another intern, has finished her formal education at the college of Horticulture in Osnabrueck, Germany. She graduated with four majors: Tree Nursery, Fruit Cultivation, Plant Pathology and Nursery Management. At the college she attended, students concentrate only on horticulture courses unlike the United States where they are required to take extensive courses in chemistry, biology and other science courses.

Projects she has been working on at the Arboretum have been mapping areas on the grounds, pressing plants in the herbarium and recording information into the computer. She has also worked with the tree crew and in the nursery sowing and watering.

Petra especially likes the weather of Southern California but could do without the smog.

Petra said that she has been interested in plants for eight years and worked at tree nurseries in Cologne but had never worked at a botanical garden.

"There are two botanical gardens in Cologne. One is much larger [than the Arboretum] and the other specializes in European plants that originated in Germany," Petra said.

From January through March of this year Petra studied at Ohio State University taking courses in horticulture. She received a scholarship from the German Society, a campus organization, which enabled her to study at Ohio State. She then learned of the internship program at the Arboretum and wanted to further her experience by working in the horticulture field.

Fabian Synaeghel is a student at the College of Sainte-Foy in Quebec, Canada, who is studying horticulture. He has worked at nurseries in Quebec and California but sees the Arboretum as a place to learn about plants from all over the world.

"For instance, there are no no eucalyptus trees in Canada because of the temperate zone," Fabian said. "Working here I can learn about different types of plants that grow in a climate like that of Southern California."

Petra Schmaehling records mapping information into the computer at the Los Angeles State and County Arboretum.

Paul Rainey radios to his partner while checking for defective sprinklers at South Coast Botanic Garden.

overgrown podocarpus trees beside picnic tables and beside the main parking lot, replacing them with pittosporum, an evergreen shrub, to rejuvenate the borders. Sprinkler systems were also installed in these areas by the interns.

Leslie Pray is a graduate of the University of California at Berkeley who majored in biology. She did not know if she would like to pursue a career in the horticulture field but decided to work at the Arboretum as an introduction to practical gardening.

"This is a new experience for me, working in a botanical garden," Leslie said. "Today, we planted 23 species of rosemary in the Mediterranean Section."

At Descanso Gardens, student interns were Mike Ravetti, Biola University; Tony Martinez, Citrus Community College; Carlos Diaz, Cal Poly Pomona; and Cindy Villafuerte and Tom Wang, Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.

The students planted irises, zinnias, dahlias and petunias in flower beds on the grounds. They also worked in the Rose Garden pruning and weeding.

"Working here gives us valuable training in the industry," said Tom Wang who is studying ornamental horticulture.

At South Coast Botanic Gardens, student interns were Cal State Long Beach students Tom Engelhardt, Carl Norgauer and Paul Rainey; Long Beach City College students Laura Lingener and April Allen; and Scott Liston from Humboldt State University.

Interns tackled a major project, maintenance of the Native Plants Section. Planting, trimming, pruning, soil grading and trenching were some of their other activities at South Coast.

Tony Gonzales, grounds supervisor, said that he likes to give the interns a variety of projects to work

Interns at Descanso Gardens gather at the Old-Fashioned Rose Garden. From left are Tony Martinez, Cindy Villafuerte, Mike Ravetti, Carlos Diaz and Tom Wang.

on so that they do not become stagnated.

The interns are studying botany, horticulture and related fields. Carl Norgauer is completing his teaching credential and hopes to teach high school science courses. "Background from working as an intern will be useful in my career," Carl said. "Wherever I teach I would like to teach the students about the different plants on the campus."

Through the assistance of these student interns many projects were completed. Without their help these projects would still be ideas. The internship program is beneficial to both the County gardens and the students, offering educational instruction to students and aid to the staff in maintaining the grounds. Through the internship program students gain practical experience in horticulture, irrigation systems propagation, pruning and nursery management, while the grounds are updated and maintained.

Lori White (left) and Joseph Macias remove an overgrown podocarpus beside the parking lot at the Arboretum.

Article and photographs by Jill Lachut, Arboretum publications assistant.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER

LOS ANGELES STATE AND COUNTY ARBORETUM, Arcadia

SEPTEMBER 5, 6, 7—
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Fern and Exotic Plant Show
Los Angeles International Fern Society

SEPTEMBER 13—10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Turtle and Tortoise Show
California Turtle and Tortoise Club

SEPTEMBER 26, 27—
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Bonsai Show
Akebono Bonsai Society

OCTOBER 15—Evening
Gala Garden Show Preview Party
California Arboretum Foundation

OCTOBER 16 through 25—
10 a.m. to 6 p.m.
LOS ANGELES GARDEN SHOW
"The English Influence"

NOVEMBER 7, 8—Sat. 1 to 4:30 p.m.
Sun. 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Rose Show
San Gabriel Valley Rose & Horticultural Society

NOVEMBER 21, 22—
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Bonsai Show
Santa Anita Bonsai Society

SOUTH COAST BOTANIC GARDEN, Palos Verdes Peninsula

SEPTEMBER 7—4 p.m. to 6 p.m.
Labor Day Concert annd Picnic
South Coast Botanic Gardens Foundation

SEPTEMBER 13—12 to 4 p.m.
Origami Festival
South Coast Botanic Gardens Foundation

SEPTEMBER 20—2 p.m.
Wildflower Talk
Charles Benz

SEPTEMBER 27—2 p.m.
Health Secrets of "Shangri-La"
Renee Taylor

DESCANSO GARDENS La Canada Flintridge

AUGUST 28 through SEPTEMBER 24
9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Artist of the Month
Virginia Robertson

SEPTEMBER 25 through OCTOBER 22
9 a. m to 3:30 p.m.
Artists of the Month
Pasadena Society of Artists

SEPTEMBER 29—9:30 to 11:30 a.m.
Discover Descanso tour
Descanso Gardens Guild

OCTOBER 10, 11—9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Plant Sale
Descanso Gardens Guild

OCTOBER 31, NOV. 1—
9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m
Chrysanthemum Show
Glendale Chrysanthemum Society

NOVEMBER 7, 8—9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Ikebana Flower Arrangement Show
International Ikebana Society